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Sokolovskiy On Armed Forces Development

...The Soviet Army and Navy have fundamentally changed their armament in the last few years. Our economic, scientific, and technical achievements have made first-class weapons possible. Nuclear missiles of various types and purposes are now the basis of our strength. During the last few years we have introduced a complex of strategic means and absolutely new types of missiles, including mobile strategic rocket launchers. Our Navy has new atomic submarines equipped with underwater ballistic missiles. The Air Force and Airborne Troops have also been strengthened. Our air defenses have efficient missile intercept systems. We have excellent tanks, armored troop carriers, the latest artillery, and means of communication and engineering. These have all increased the maneuverability and striking force of the Armed Forces.

The strength of our Army lies in the fact that mighty weapons are in the hands of men completely loyal to our socialist country and to Communism.

We threaten no one and have no intention of attacking anyone, but we must be prepared to repel aggression in view of the threat to peace by the forces of imperialism.

The Soviet Armed Forces...vigilantly safeguard the peaceful labor of Soviet people. The other members of the Warsaw Pact stand by in defense of peace and security. Our comradeship in arms has been forged by blood shed in the joint fight against fascism in World War II....

Armed Forces Day Speech by Mar SU Vasilii SOKOLOVSKIY
Moscow Radio, 22 February 1967



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Bagramyan on Armed Forces Development

...The most important feature of the present stage of development of our Armed Forces is the fact that among them a quite new type of troops, the Strategic Rocket Troops, has been formed and consolidated. They are the mighty shield against which any, even the most extravagant, plans of the imperialist aggressor will break. At the last October parade in Red Square, the demonstration of Soviet intercontinental rockets, including those of self-propelled carriers, was quite impressive. The rocket-carrying submarine fleet is also capable of carrying out strategic tasks. Our new nuclear-propelled vessels, which are equipped with ballistic rockets which can be launched from underwater, can inflict blows without surfacing at a range of several thousand kilometers. The armament and technical equipment, as well as the combat capabilities of the surface forces of the Navy, have also changed fundamentally.

The Soviet Ground Forces have been completely renovated. Their armament includes the most varied equipment, including rockets with nuclear charges of various power. The mobility of the motorized rifle and tank units has greatly increased. Their striking power has sharply increased. Our tanks are rightly considered the best in the world. Our airborne troops, the Soviet winged infantry, have everything necessary, including armored personnel carriers and medium tanks. Our Air Force has become jet propelled, supersonic, and rocketcarrying. Speeds exceeding the speed of sound by several times have been achieved by the rocketcarrying aircraft. Low altitude and intercontinental flight ranges to inflict nuclear blows on the enemy's most important targets are also possible for them. Important changes have been undergone by the country's antiaircraft defense; its means insure the reliable repulsing of any aircraft. In recent years, a realistic possibility has emerged for effectively carrying out antirocket defense.

The Armed Forces have available well-trained command, political, engineering, and technical personnel who are devoted to the cause of Communism and are capable of carrying out the tasks of training and educating troops at levels required by modern conditions and of keeping them in a state of constant battle readiness. Every fourth officer has higher military or specialized education. Educated and trained young people are joining units and ships. Over 70 percent of those drafted into the Army and the Navy have a technical specialty. The personnel of the Armed Forces consistently improve their military and political knowledge and successfully master complex military weapons and equipment. Soviet servicemen are genuine masters of their service specialties. They are distinguished by a broad cultural outlook and a profound understanding of their tasks. Thus, in the Army and Navy, throughout the whole country, creative initiative is breaking out like tempestuous spring...

Armed Forces Day Talk

By Mar Ivan Kristoforovich BAGRAMYAN,
USSR Deputy Minister of Defense;
Moscow Radio, 22 February 1967